

Bluff Town Council Meeting
June 9, 2020
Bluff Community Center
Following the 6:00 p.m. 2020 Amended Budget Hearing
190 N 3rd East P.O. Box 324
435-672-9990

Regular meetings are held the first three Tuesdays of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the Bluff Community Center. Requests to be on the agenda may be submitted in writing to Ann Leppanen (ann@townofbluff.org) at least 4 days before the meeting. Agendas and minutes are posted at: townofbluff.org and audio, in addition, at the Utah Public Notice Website
This meeting will be held electronically on Google Hangouts.

Mayor Ann K. Leppanen, Luanne Hook, Jim Sayers, Linda Sosa, Brant Murray

MINUTES

Meeting started at 6:09 immediately following Budget Hearing. This meeting was held via Zoom video and phone.

Roll Call—all in attendance except Linda Sosa had an excused absence; approx. 11 public in attendance.

Approval of Bluff Town Council's Minutes for the Work Session of June 2, 2020
Murray motioned to accept, Sayers seconded with one correction adding Community Center roof in item #1. Leppanen, Sayers, Hook all voted in favor. Sosa absent.

Approval of Bluff Town Council's Regular Meeting Minutes for June 2, 2020
Sayers motioned to accept, Murray seconded with one correction to #9 regarding Jim Hook spraying invasive knapweed. Murray, Sayers and Hook all voted in favor; Leppanen abstained, Sosa absent.

Unfinished Business

1. Discussion and Vote on 2020 Amended Budget after Public Hearing (All)

The Public Hearing was held electronically at 6:00 pm prior to the regularly scheduled meeting. The budget was amended to create a Capital Project Fund with \$10,000 for Facilities Improvements and \$10,000 for Open Space Acquisition. Linda Richmond clarified that the Fund will not automatically be funded annually—it will need to be opened and approved on each cycle. Sayers motioned to approve amended budget, Murray seconded. Leppanen, Murray, Sayers and Hook all voted in favor; Sosa absent.

2. Reports on SJC COVID-19 Task Force, Local Task Force, Business Owners of Bluff (Leppanen)

and #4—Report of the Town of Bluff's Risk Status

Leppanen reported that Kirk Bengé contacted her from the County Health Department. He has made the recommendation to the State Health Dept. that Mexican Hat and Bluff both move from Orange to Yellow (Moderate) on Utah's dial of risk zones based on cases and risk. If there are changes he will consult with communities and recommend appropriate changes.

Leppanen attended the BOB (Businesses of Bluff) meeting and was encouraged, thankful and impressed at the efforts being made by local businesses to protect employees, visitors and the residents of Bluff.

Leppanen also reported that the Local COVID Task Force groups are active and coordinating efforts. They include Fire and EMS, BAMA (Bluff Area Mutual Aid), the Utah Food Pantry, and the CRT (Citizens Response Team). If people know of specific needs in our area they are encouraged to contact any of these groups.

Jen Davila, president of the BOB (Businesses of Bluff) commented that businesses are working hard to comply with mask requirements throughout public areas in Bluff and she asked that people have a positive attitude to help encourage people to feel comfortable visiting Bluff.

Leppanen reported Natalie Randall of San Juan County has a project San Juan Strong aimed at visitors and indicating that everyone is employing safe practices and is asking Bluff to sign it. This will be on the next agenda.

Murray suggested writing a letter to Navajo Nation President Nez in support of his efforts to protect the Navajo Nation during this COVID time. He will write a draft letter for the next meeting. Sayers agreed and pointed out that Utah spiked the highest this week and the virus is still a big problem on the reservation.

3. Maintenance and Mowing of the Town of Bluff Parks and Community Center (Murray)

Brant Murray and Michael Haviken of the Road Department toured the area to make a list of needs. They would like to set up an agreement with a local contractor who could be requested to do mowing and cleanup work as needed without the delay of waiting for the next Council Meetings for approval. Haviken clarified that there is discretionary money in the Class C Roads Fund to take care of street ROW's and street signs; parks and the Community Center would need to be funded another way. Leppanen would like a resolution defining limits and fiscal responsibilities. She will set up a meeting with Haviken and Murray.

4. Report on the Town of Bluff's Risk Status (Leppanen)

This was combined with #2 above

5. Update on Sunrise Engineering's Extension on Proof of Beneficial Use of Water

Sunrise applied for an extension of the Water Right.

The Water Study is done and completed hard copies will be distributed to the Mayor and to Council Members.

New Business

6. Building Permit Discussion (All)

In order to get a building permit now, the first step is with the Bluff Planning and Zoning Commission and then the permitting process continues with San Juan County. Sayers reported that to make this a simpler process and one that stays in Bluff, an ad hoc committee of two council members and two planning members (Sayers and Hook, Podmore and Haviken) have been working towards this end. The committee is now in need of a consultant, possibly with the person who would be doing the building inspections. Leppanen requested we schedule a work session to discuss the progress of the committee and the tentative date is June 16th at 3 pm.

7. Foot Bridge Project

Leppanen reported that there is renewed interest in reconstructing the footbridge across the San Juan River. History of reconstruction efforts include a feasibility study and fund raising and this all needs to be researched so efforts aren't duplicated. Murray encouraged including the Navajo Nation in the discussion and Hook agreed and pointed out that one end of the bridge would be on Tribal Lands.

8. Discussion of Masks in Public Places

Murray would like to see signs created for Bluff businesses encouraging patrons to wear masks upon entry. Leppanen requested 100 masks for the Community Center to be available to hand out as needed. Kirsten Ewing commented that the Town probably cannot require face coverings but that each business can. If the Council does not do a resolution, Leppanen would encourage signage.

9. Financial Report (Sosa)

This was tabled until next Tuesday.

10. Other

—Bluff Water Works—Davila announced the next regular meeting on Wednesday would be at 7pm on the backside of the Desert Rose.

—BSA meeting is cancelled this week.

—Planning and Zoning Commission: Haviken reported they approved Land Use Clearance for Barbara Day for a small extension to her house. They are reviewing existing ordinances and have a 9 AM work session Thursday to review Land Use Clearance. Haviken is researching the possible creation of a General Plan Map.

—Hook reported that the sirens lately have been calling Bluff Fire out to help in a search for an ejected driver from a car wreck in the river above Montezuma Creek.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Sayers and seconded by Hook; all voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Recording Officer: Luanne Hook